

REMARKS

Claims 80-88 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of June 2, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

The rejections of claims 74-79 are now moot in view of the present amendment canceling claims 74-79.

Claims 74-79 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 80-88, which claims are substantially the same as the claims allowed in the corresponding European application. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification as filed at page 4, lines 7-24; page 5, lines 3-9 and 17-20; page 7, line 4 through page 8, line 9.

Oellerking discloses repair patches for the protective sheets of containers and lorries. The weldable sealing strip is firmly connected to the patch material around

its entire periphery with a prescribed minimum margin (column 2, lines 40-44, emphasis added). The requirement in Oellerking that the patch material have a weldable sealing strip which is connected to the patch around its entire periphery eliminates the option of having the welding portion at any location on the fabric. Weber adds nothing to the Oellerking disclosure because Weber discloses a waterproof sheet made of paper which may be coated to render the paper waterproof. This is not at all the same as a woven fabric as claimed herein.

There is no incentive to combine Oellerking and Weber to arrive at the particular woven fabric of the present invention, because a combination of these two patents would lead one skilled in the art to a tarpaulin which has a weldable sealing strip connected to a patch around its entire periphery. This, of course, would eliminate any fabric in which only the warp is partially or completely comprised of fibers made from or coated with a thermoplastic material.

There is no indication in either Oellerking or Weber that the welding portion joins a flat or folded fixing portion of the fabric, or wherein the welding portion consisting of a

Appln. No. 09/033,909
Amd. dated June 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 2, 2004


plurality of sections branched from the fixing portion along straight lines.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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